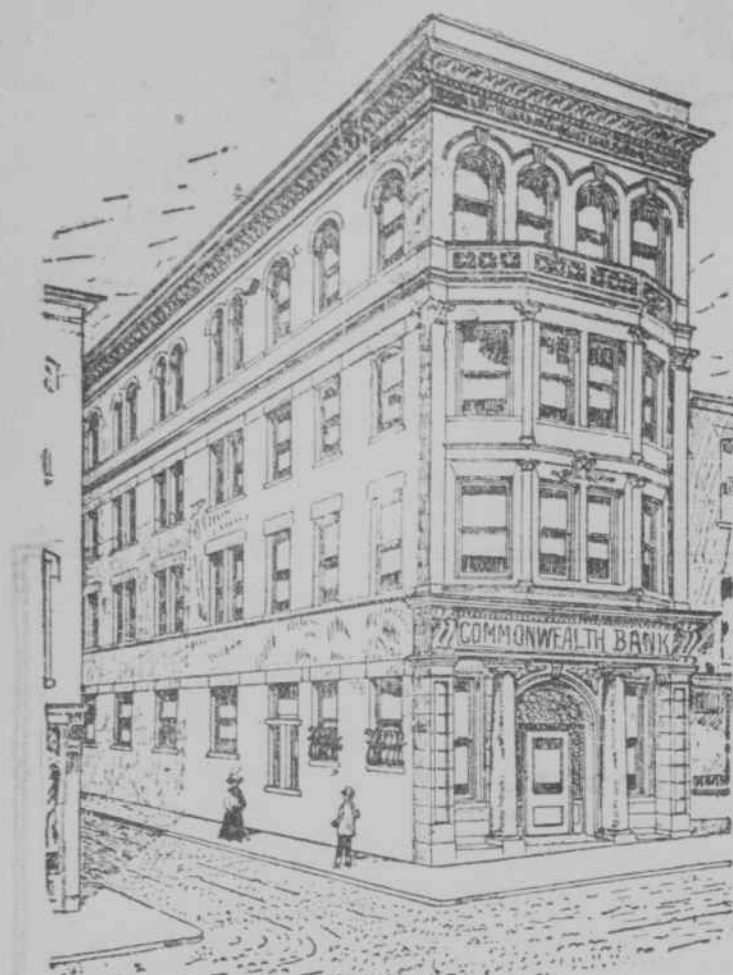


COMMONWEALTH BANK IN NEW QUARTERS ON NINTH STREET



The Commonwealth Bank, one of the newest financial institutions in the city, is now in its new home at No. 12 North Ninth Street. It moved in and commenced business in its new quarters yesterday morning.

The Commonwealth Bank was organized a few months ago, and became the successor of the Realty Bond and Trust Company, taking over the assets and banking business of that concern.

A few days after the organization of the new bank the directors bought the splendid property at No. 12 North Ninth Street, and at once commenced to remodel the building and make it in all respects an up-to-date banking house.

The remodeling of the building has had the best attention of the directors, and the best architectural skill they could employ, and the result is one of the handsomest and most completely equipped banking houses in the city. The front is of granite, and the doors and large win-

dow being arched at the top. Inside the woodwork is finished in mahogany, which contrasts beautifully with the pale green walls and light ceiling. No expense has been spared by the directors in fitting up the establishment in the very best style, and providing for the comfort and convenience of the public and the bank employees.

The bank's vault is fire and burglar-proof and strictly up-to-date in every particular, as, indeed, are all the fixtures.

The officers of the Commonwealth are H. L. Denoon, president; George C. Walters, vice-president, and W. L. Walters, cashier. These gentlemen have been identified prominently with local financial interests for many years, and are recognized as among the most progressive business men in the community.

The Commonwealth is engaged in a general banking business, with special attention given to the savings department. In which four per cent. interest is allowed.

TOWN OF DENDRON IS PUSHING AHEAD

Recent Census Shows Population of 1,500 With Good Schools and Industrial Enterprises.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
DENDRON, VA., December 22.—The town of Dendron was incorporated by the last Legislature, and the question of the size and population having so often arisen among visitors to the town, and believing that it was not given credit as it was entitled to, the town council ordered a census, with the following results: Five churches—2 white and 2 colored; 15 stores, 2 livery stables, 269 dwelling houses, 1,512 population, of whom 585 are white and 928 colored, and of this number 325 school children; two schoolhouses, the schoolhouse for white children being a commodious five-room building erected this year, the old one having proved too small for the needs of the town.

The town is situated on the Surry, Sussex and Southampton Railway, about seven miles from Wakefield and fourteen miles from Scotland. A landing for James River steamers, and is in a fine position, large quantities of which are shipped on this road.

The principal enterprises in the town are the Surry Lumber mill. There are three large sawmills in operation, the capacity of which are from 250 to 300 feet of lumber per day. The box factory, in which from 200 to 300 employees are kept busy, often running overtime, and a planing mill, which handles kindling wood for the Northern markets, and also for the S. S. & S. Ry. shops, in which are made the repairs necessary for the fourteen locomotives and numerous cars in use on the road.

Quite a number of the operatives of the mill live outside the corporation, where they own their homes.

NEW DUTIES IN FRANCE.

Proposed High Rate on Cotton Seed and Oil.

A rather dispatch from Paris, dated December 20th, says that cotton seed and oil, which were nearly 100% worth exported to France in the first half year, are threatened with almost prohibitory duties.

This subject is being pressed for consideration, not only as a new source of revenue, but on the demand of the olive oil industry, for protection against the export of which it is said, is extensively being replaced by oil.

The customs commission of the Chamber of Deputies has decided to propose a duty of 10% on cotton seed, new from six francs, and increasing the duty on cotton-seed oil from six to twelve francs (per 100 kilograms) (225 pounds).

The commission of the chamber has protested against the inclusion of the proposed new duties in the budget, and, having a majority in the chamber, has proposed to bring up the question in Parliament as a separate matter.

The French foreign office, the dispatch says, has received from Ambassador McCormick strong representations against the suggested duties. The most favorable feature of the situation from the American standpoint lies in the differences between the two commissions.

Appropriate.
"What time is that? The lady's daughter is playing!" queried the new bride.

"That's a conglomerated mixture of time from different epochs," explained the bride.

"Is it?" asked the bride.

"Is it?" asked the bride.

ANCIENT CAPITAL PUSHING AHEAD

(Continued From First Page.)

of years, and has shown himself to be a public-spirited citizen, and a man of ability. He holds the office of superintendent of schools, and probably no man is better known throughout this section. Mr. R. L. Spencer is one of the most prominent citizens of Williamsburg. He has been president of the Peninsula Bank for a number of years, and has charge of the management of the dormitories and refectory of William and Mary College. He has been prominent at all times in public matters, and no small portion of the town's progress is due to him.

FIRE PROTECTION BILL. Designed to Raise Standard of Construction.

COLUMBUS, O., December 22.—The Ohio State Journal is authority for the statement that every State legislature which meets this winter will have laid before it, for its consideration and prospective enactment, a bill designed to regulate the construction of buildings in its cities and towns, to the end that they may be more nearly fireproof, and that legislation throughout the country, having this end in view shall be uniform. This bill has been drafted for the International Society of Municipal Building Commissioners by its executive officer, Architect F. W. Fitzpatrick, of Washington, D. C., than whom no man knows more about building nor is better qualified to define the regulations that should hedge it about to make it substantial and safe.

The society calls attention to the fact that even in such years of great abundance as this, when building is at high tide, we permit fire to destroy more than half in value than the new construction done. It points out that not only do we as a nation build so flimsily as to literally encourage, aid and abet fire, as it were, but that we even tolerate systems of construction so imperfect that buildings actually collapse while still in process of erection, witness the frequent and fatal collapses of reinforced concrete structures all over the country.

Reverting to fire again the society's records show that the destruction wrought by that element in this country equals a tax of \$2.50 for every man, woman and child of our population, while in all of Europe the same tax averages but thirty-two cents per capita. It would seem fairly certain that some concerted action be taken by the State governments to lessen this appalling waste of the country's resources.

India Rubber—Importations.

The popularity of the bicycle and automobile, coupled with the increased use of electricity in the daily affairs of the people, has increased enormously the importation of India rubber. That article shows now a larger value in the import list than almost any other single product. The value of India rubber imported in the crude state in the year ended in the imports of crude rubber were valued at \$41,500,000, and as the imports for the single month of October were valued at \$2,000,000 it seems probable that the total for the entire year will be over \$50,000,000.

The growth in demand for India rubber and the consequent growth in importations for India rubber is not a product of the United States has been more rapid than that of almost any other important article during the past decade. The value 1900 was but \$13,500,000, or less than one-third of the prospective total for the year 1906, thus indicating that the value of rubber imported has increased more than 200 per cent. in a decade.

This increase in the value of India rubber imported is due in part, however, to the advance in price caused by the great increase in demand in various parts of the world, and especially in the United States, which now consumes more than one-half of the rubber crop of the world. The quantity of rubber imported in the first ten months of 1906 was twenty-six million pounds, and the stated value \$11,500,000, making the average value per pound, forty-four and a half cents, while the quantity imported in the ten months of the present year, for which the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor has now a record, is fifty-three and a half million pounds, valued at \$11,500,000, or an average of seventy-seven cents per pound. It will be seen from these figures that the average import price of crude rubber has advanced seventy-three per cent. during the last decade, due chiefly, it may be assumed, to the increased demand for rubber to be used in the manufacture of bicycles, automobiles, and the various appliances required through the greatly increased use of electricity as applied to lighting, transportation, and the manufacturing industries.

These figures of rubber imported include the only that brought in in the crude state. In addition to this there were brought into the United States during the ten months ending with October more than eighteen million pounds of old and scrap rubber for remanufacture, and twenty and a half million pounds of gutta percha, an article somewhat similar to rubber, which is mixed with India rubber for use in the various industries. In addition to this there was imported 328,993 pounds of gutta percha, which is used chiefly in the manufacture of submarine cables.

Japanese Commercial Exhibition at Mukden.

Consul-General Willard H. Straight, of Mukden, quotes the Japanese consul-general there as stating that it would be possible for the American manufacturers or merchants desirous of showing their goods to obtain floor space in the Commercial Exhibition, which was to be opened there about November 15th. The enterprise is conducted under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of the six principal cities in Japan, who, assisted by the government, have subscribed the sum necessary to meet the expenditure incurred.

Floor space will be let at the rate of \$5 per six feet square for the three months of the exhibition, at the expiration of which period the building will be used as a bazaar, where it will doubtless be possible for American firms to sell their wares. Japanese Consul Hagiwara suggests that in case any manufacturer should desire to exhibit agricultural or other machinery of considerable size and great weight, arrangements could be made for the erection of special sheds within the grounds.

New Steamship Line for Manila.

Vice Consul-General G. R. Chamberlin forwards the following report from the Singapore Free Press:

The Ocean Steamship Company, better known as the Blue Funnel Line, has started a new service to Manila. The steamers run between Glasgow, Liverpool, and the Orient, and formerly had to tranship their cargo at Singapore or Hongkong. The first steamer to make the run will be the Teucer, the largest steamer that has ever passed through the Suez Canal. She is a new vessel,

Commonwealth Bank

Begs to announce the opening of their new bank building, No. 12 North 9th St.

Patrons of the Bank and the public generally are invited to make an inspection of their Banking House--- modern fire-proof vaults and up-to-date equipment necessary for the handling of a greatly enlarged business. : :

4% Interest Allowed on Deposits

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GEO. C. WALTERS, Vice-Pres.

W. L. WALTERS, Cashier.



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The Merchants National Bank,

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Capital and Surplus, - - - \$1,000,000.00

SAFEST PLACE FOR SAVINGS.

built especially for carrying cargo, and is modern in every respect. Her net tonnage is 8,917, and she will carry 2000 tons of cargo. The Ocean Steamship Company was consolidated with the China Mutual Steamship Company about two years ago, which company also owns a number of large freighters. The Teucer was due at Manila on November 20th.

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Solicits Accounts of Firms, Individuals and Corporations.

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The Safety Deposit Boxes in vault of this Company, in possession of security against fire and burglars, are equal to any. Rent, \$3.00 per annum and up, according to size. Courtiers attention to renters.

City Bank

OF RICHMOND, VA.

Capital, - - - \$400,000
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Interest allowed on deposit in Savings Department.
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E. B. ADDISON, Vice-President.
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